

Virginias' in the hypothetical list. It was definitely recorded from Smith's Island, Northampton County, by Mr. Edw. J. Brown, who secured three specimens between May 14 and 28, 1894.

The present note is, we believe, the first definitely recorded instance of the species for Virginia in autumn. The specimen secured is a female. — WILLIAM C. BRAISLIN, M. D., *Brooklyn, N. Y.*

**A Further Note on the Specific Name of *Falco regulus*.**— Since the tentative proposal to change the specific designation of this species (Auk, April, 1899, p. 182), both the references to supposed earlier names have been verified and their status determined. One of these names, *Accipiter merillus* Gerini (Orn. Meth. Dig. 1767, I, 51, pll. xviii, xix) is, under present rules, untenable, for Gerini is clearly not a binomialist, as is disclosed by even a casual examination of his volumes. Since the other name, *Falco asalon* Tunstall (Orn. Brit., 1771, p. 1), proves to be a nomen nudum, the Merlin apparently must continue to stand as *Falco regulus*.— HARRY C. OBERHOLSER, *Washington, D. C.*

**The Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker in Beverly, Mass.**— On January 21, 1899, I observed a pair (male and female) of the Arctic Three-toed Woodpecker (*Picoides americanus*) in the white-pine clumps of Beverly Commons; the female busily chiselling for grubs in a fallen trunk. She seemed wary, but hungry enough to allow of approach within twelve or fifteen feet, and continuous observation for ten minutes. With a good field-glass I could trace the passage of the grub when gulped down her gullet. She chiselled with great rapidity and skill, making the chips fly vigorously. The male meanwhile was perfectly quiet on a neighboring living trunk; so that his presence was unsuspected till the female, finally scared, flew to his tree and disturbed him into motion. Both then bounded off through the air with whirr of wings, the female leading. This record must be pretty far south for this species, especially in such a mild and open winter. Both birds were sleek and plump.— REGINALD C. ROBBINS, *Boston, Mass.*

**The earliest name for the Roadrunner.**— A recent note on the early history of the Roadrunner (Auk, Jan. 1900, 66) by the late Dr. Coues, suggests a point bearing on the proper name for the species. It is more than probable that Lesson's term *californiana* (1829) should be replaced by *longicauda* of Swainson (1824), but this is a matter which cannot at present be satisfactorily determined. On reference to Swainson's 'Classification of Birds,' II, 1837, 325, it will be noted that he quotes "*L. longicauda* Sw. (1824)" under the genus *Leptostoma*. Now, the name *longicauda*, for this Cuckoo does not occur in any accessible work of Swainson's of the year 1824, but it will almost certainly be found in his 'Appendix' to Bullock's Catalogue of his [Bullock's] Mexican Museum, published in that year. This work is so scarce that, apparently, no copy is now accessible to ornithologists.